



# Confessions of an Organized Homemaker: The Secrets of Uncluttering Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life

*Deniece Schofield*

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## **Confessions of an Organized Homemaker: The Secrets of Uncluttering Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life** Deniece Schofield

This newly expanded and updated edition offers homemakers hundreds of ideas and techniques on how to unclutter their homes and take control of their lives.

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## **From Reader Review Confessions of an Organized Homemaker: The Secrets of Uncluttering Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life for online ebook**

### **Cinnapatty says**

I read this because I know the author. Some things are definitely outdated but others are timeless. I liked hearing Deniece's voice in my head as I read. That was fun ;)

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### **Jennifer says**

Flylady might provide the motivation, but this book provides the methodology. It agrees that decluttering is first, but goes the extra mile in explaining how to put away and store the "good stuff." I never knew how to do that which is why my good stuff seems like clutter and the house is a wreck. I will be hanging on to this one until the library pries it out of my hands.

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### **Becky says**

It may seem a little archaic, 50s or so, but the principles really work. I do not tie my hair back with a bandana and put on my maid clothes, but I use a lot of her ideas for organizing my life, and I can honestly say I have more time to do what I want to do now that I did before I read the book.

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### **Gaijinmama says**

A good resource for those of us who need help decluttering, managing our time, and getting organized. The author offers practical suggestions for each section of the home and for basic home management activities such as meal planning. She has a sense of humor, too; for example, those of us who are into crafts but rarely finish what we start and tend to leave our works-in-progress lying around all over the place are "Living in the projects!"

That said, I like Marla Cilley's Sink Reflections and Sandra Felton's

Messies Manual, The: A Complete Guide to Bringing Order & Beauty to Your Home better. They're more up-to-date and user-friendly.

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### **Elissa says**

The beginning of this book was good and highly motivating. But I found the actual, specific organizing tips to be almost completely unhelpful. To me it was a like a neat freak trying to give advice to someone without a chaotic mess of a house- no good. But I give it three stars for the things I did learn from this book, like taking one goal at a time to work on for 6 weeks, writing things down, etc.

## Mystie Winckler says

Own.

My mom's copy of this book, published around the time I was born, was *Confessions of an Organized Housewife*. This revised edition was published in 1994, and homemaker is a better title for it than housewife. I wonder if her tone and approach was more "housewifey" in the 80's than in the 90's. For some reason the whole feel of the book struck me as definitely "early 90's" working- soccer- super-mom, after, of course her sob story in the beginning of living so long in chaos. Every organization book written by a mom has to begin with a "I used to be a slob like you, but now I'm organized and if I can be, then you can be, too!" variant. Funny how most of them lived in chaos when all their children were little, and their organized days came after all their children were in school most of the day. Ha ha.

Mostly the book was an elaboration of the principle that everything needs a place, and then you need to put it in it's place. And that is true. She has some good ideas for making convenient and space-saving places for things, but much of it is again dated, simply because there are better organizing products on the market now than there were then. This is a pre-HGTV book. :)

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## Chelsey McNeil says

She makes filing systems for her kids jigsaw puzzles. I can kind of relate to this impulse, having been a junior-high girl who put library stickers on the spines of my own books and alphabetized the family VHS collection growing up, but now being a busy SAHM with 3 little boys to care for, I just don't have the time for this level of detail.

I recommend *The Fast and Furious 5 Step Organizing Solution: No-Fuss Clutter Control* from a Top Professional Organizer for those who really want to get things under control.

This books was not that helpful, honestly. And it reads quite dated, being from 1985 so there is no reference to computers and every recipe she cooks contains cream of mushroom soup.

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## Jennifer says

Thought this was a decent book—I'm always looking for a few good tips. Some ideas just seemed... dumb, though. Like her idea for board game storage (seemed like it would be a lot more trouble than it was worth). And then there was a chapter that outlined a weekly cleaning schedule, and I literally laughed out loud. As per the suggestions, you would spend 2 hours cleaning on Monday and Wednesday, a minimal amount of time cleaning on Tuesday, Thursday, and weekends, and 3 hours cleaning on Friday. Okay, I feel like I'm a decent housekeeper, but I just don't do that many hours of cleaning, no siree. It went on to say what to clean when, and I think it had you cleaning the bathrooms 3 times a week, and just "maintaining" the bathrooms on the other days of the week. Sorry, my bathrooms get scrubbed once a week, and we move on, people.

But anyway, I think it's just another one of those organizing books that'll get you thinking, and I think that's the important thing for me. Focusing on my problem areas and trying to come up with workable solutions.

## Lori says

I discovered this book at my library and read it cover to cover. It's a bit dated in a few sections, but still filled to the brim with helpful hints for organizing your home and home life. If there was a more updated version, I would probably buy a copy for every couple I know that gets married and sets up a new home together.

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## Lesley says

Very enjoyable book, even if you're a seasoned organiser. It isn't too full of "how to's" that might make it a slower read, especially if they seem more relevant to the author only; but instead supplies basic rules to apply across all areas involved in maintaining an organized, clean home. I loved the story of the ham and the reasons given for why each generation cut the end off the joint first! As well as "I'll make up a list of chores that need to be done, and I'll take the list around to anyone who's warm, vertical and breathing"!

The idea of "being motion minded" in order to save on little bits of time is truly a great tip, and one that small spaces and lots of young children taught me many years ago. And the section on meals and their planning is very good too and another area that is tried and tested - I have used very similar for successfully and economically planning a month of meals, including breakfasts and lunches, for a large family. As the author says, "You conserve your energy when you cut down on indecision."

The planning notebook ideas are fantastic, especially because everything is on one plan under one cover. As is the schedule maker master which I plan to copy and tailor for our needs.

"Don't start today doing yesterday's work!"

All in all a great book and one that should be of help to anyone.

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## Shawn Williams says

This book changed my life! I was finally able to stay on top of things. She has excellent ideas and useful suggestions that can be translated to the real world. Loved this book!

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## Mary Anne says

I read this book several years ago now. It had a lot of information that was similar to another organization book I'd read, but this one views Homemaking as something of value all by itself and the other view it as a necessary evil. It's been a few years and I think it's time I pulled this book back off my shelf and reread it, since when I read it the first time I had no kids in school yet and only had two kids. Things have changed and to be quite honest I could use a little help figuring out a plan.

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## **Betsy says**

This was a fun read. I would love to see the author's house because she sounds, well, ORGANIZED. I kind of cracked up in parts.

Some random thoughts:

1. We don't own enough stuff to organize in some of the fashions she describes. Other ideas are genius (inspired me to put my few sewing patterns into manila envelopes and glue the pattern package to the outside--excellent!)
  2. This book was written before the age of apps, mobile devices, etc. I found her recipe organization suggestions intriguing, but I'm betting that most people (perhaps myself) would prefer a more digital approach since there are so many recipes online.
  3. An easy read, especially when you need some "oomph" to those New Year's organizing resolutions.
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## **Jessica says**

If I was to just simply be rating all home organization or otherwise home improvement books I would be giving this a five, whole-heartedly, but I don't like to give my five's out lightly and it just seems wrong to put this on the same level as "To Kill a Mockingbird" or "These is my words".

That being said it really should get a five, because this book has really improved my life. I have spent the last three weeks organizing my home. The biggest improvement was re-organizing my kitchen.

My two favorite quotes from the book are "Fun is an attitude, not an activity"

and

"Don't let your desire for order ruin your marriage or your family life. Next time you are faced with another mess, step back, take a deep breath, and say to yourself, "This is the signature of someone I love!"

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## **Orquidea Tropical says**

Easy to follow and clear. Worth your time.

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